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Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SAJ-01 SS-20

NSC-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W
---------- 022020
R 131454Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6127
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USIA FOR IEE AND IBS; LENINGRAD FOR SHEEHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CASC, PINS, US, PINT
SUBJ: DETENTION OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS: EMBASSY PARALLEL PROTEST

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2020 AND (B) MOSCOW 2081

1. ON BEHALF OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR, PRESS ATTACHE CALLED ON MFA PRESS SECTION COUNSELOR FEDRENKO FEB. 13 1130 HOURS TO PRESENT COPY OF EMBASSY FEB. 12 PROTEST NOTE (TEXT REFTEL A) ON FEB. 11 DETENTION OF UPI JOURNALISTS MOSELEY AND OGDEN. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED EMBASSY CONCERN ALONG LINES DEVELOPED BY CHARGE IN PREVIOUS DAY CALL ON MFA USA DIRECTOR KORNIYENKO (REFTEL B) AND REPEATED NOTE'S REQUEST FOR MFA EXPLANATION.

2. FEDERENKO, AFTER READING NOTE CAREFULLY, REJECTED (MY OTVERGAEM) NOTE'S ASSERTIONS, WHICH HE SAID DIDN'T AGREE WITH FACTS. CORRESPONDENTS, HE SAID, BROKE LAW AND WERE SINGLED OUT FROM OTHER WESTERN JOURNALISTS PRESENT BECAUSE THEY TOOK ACTIVE PART IN DEMONSTRATION. WHEN SEIZED BY MILITIA, THEY REFUSED TO IDENTIFY SELVES, WHICH DELAYED THEIR BEING FREED.

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IN FURTHER ECHOING KORNIYENKO RESPONSE OF YESTERDAY, FEDERENKO

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DECLARED ACTION CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DISTURBED DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. ALSO, THIS WAS NOT FIRST SUCH UPI INSTANCE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE MORE RESPONSIBLE IN FUTURE AND EMBASSY COULD SO INFLUENCE CORRESPONDENTS.

3. IN REPLY,EMBOFF NOTED THAT WHILE EMBASSY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BEHAVIOR US JOURNALISTS, WE CONSIDERED THEY WERE ENGAGED IN PROPER JOURNALISTEC ACTIVITIES AND REGARDED INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR DUTIES AS NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR THAT COULD NOT HELP DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY WERE MEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO CONTACT THEIR CONSULATE, WHICH CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE HELPED ANY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS, BUT A CONSULAR OFFICER WAS NOT PERMITTED TO SEE THEM EVEN THOUGH HE WAS IN SAME BUILDING FOR ESTIMATED THIRTY MINUTES. EMBOFF REITERATED EMBASSY DESIRE FOR REPLY TO NOTE.
DUBS

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